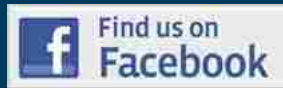




WYP Winter Newsletter

Staffordshire Freemasons Digital News



December 2019

A Message from the Provincial Grand Master

Brethren

It is no coincidence that this last year saw many Centenaries for Lodges in our Province. Brave men, bonded in fraternal love by their service in the Great War, wished to maintain that bond and continue their service to their communities and country. Freemasonry then, as now, offered a wonderful way to maintain that tradition of service. It has been my privilege and delight to visit these Lodges and help share their celebrations.

Service comes in many forms. The unsung heroes of Lodges: Almoners and Charity Stewards for many years, Secretaries and Treasurers, Provincial Officers, Brethren running Halls, Magazines, Websites. The list is endless. The service you give to others through our Charities, Brethren involved in numerous projects in the community and your loving care for our widows and our elderly Brethren and families.

As ever your selflessness, compassion and charity are a humbling lesson to us all.

Jane and I send each one of you our thanks for the service you give.

May you have a most enjoyable Christmas, and our good wishes for a happy, successful and peaceful New Year.

Ever remembering to be mindful of the needs of others.

Sincerely and fraternally

John.



Centenary Celebrations

Mercia Lodge No: 3995 on Tuesday 24th September

On Tuesday 24th September 2019 Mercia Lodge No: 3995 who meet at Aldridge celebrated their centenary meeting with a full provincial visit.



The WM W. Bro Eric Masih is pictured with brethren of the lodge and the Provincial team.

SMCA SECRETARY

Applications from interested members are invited for the honorary post of SMCA Secretary for the period starting 17th June 2020 when W.Bro. J.B. Rouse steps down from that office.

Basic computer literacy is needed and some knowledge of accounts is helpful but not essential. The post is part-time only and currently more as a representative for the Staffordshire Masonic Charity though it is hoped that the successful applicant will have the enthusiasm to take on further work responsibilities relating to the day-to-day work of the charity.

Written applications for the post should be sent to:

Dr. Matthew Gibbons,
Provincial Grand Secretary,
211 Tettenhall Rd,
Wolverhampton, WV6 0DD

Or emailed to: secretary@pglstaffordshire.co.uk

Centenary Celebrations

Ready Lodge No: 4008 on Wednesday 6th November



The Provincial Grand Master, and his Warden's, together with the Master of Ready Lodge, and his Wardens.

The entire company in attendance on that night



The Provincial Grand Master with the Master of Ready Lodge Mason. J. Pearson.

Centenary Celebrations

Jasper Lodge No 3934 on Thursday 7th November

On Thursday 7th November 2019, Jasper Lodge 3934 celebrated its 100th year with a full Provincial visit including all chained officers and both serving Wardens. In all 86 brethren attended in the main Lodge room at Shelton for the ceremony.

An address by W. Bro. Peter Hughes giving a synopsis of the history of the Lodge preceded the presentation of the Lodge history as a book to the PGM by W. Bro. Martin Jones the WM. The DPGM then presented the Lodge with a certificate marking its centenary.

A splendid Celebratory Festive Board followed in traditional and sumptuous style.

Jasper was able to present the PGM with a cheque for £3934 for the 2024 festival



On Monday 11th November

a number of brethren from Jasper Lodge No: 3934 attended the home of W. Bro Frank Mountford who due to ill health was unable to attend the Centenary meeting to celebrate his new Provincial Rank of P.Pr. SGWr



A different kind of Centenary Celebration

Congratulations to W. Bro. Gordon Hewitt P.J.G.D. on once again achieving the Chair of Crusaders Lodge No.4107 the day before his 100th Birthday and in the centenary year of the Lodge. The installation meeting was attended by many senior officers, including the PGM, John Lockley and past PGM's Kevin Chawner, Thomas Lloyd and Sandy Stewart, pictured.



Long Service awards



A most memorable evening was had on Wednesday 13th November 2019 at Crusaders' Lodge No: 4107 when W. Bro G Hewitt PJGD PPrJGW returned to the chair but also W. Bro John M Glover PJGD PPrSGW was presented with his 50yrs Certificate by PPGM R.W. Bro Sandy Stewart.

W. Bro. David Baker P.Pr.G.R., honorary member of Dartmouth Lodge No 662 was presented with his 60yr Certificate by the PGM, R.W. Bro. John Lockley at his home in Penkridge on 19th November 2019. David was initiated into 662 on 18th November 1959 by his father W. Bro. Freddie Baker WM. In 1974 David was Master of the Lodge and he was also a member of Dartmouth Chapter, Mark, Mark Mariners and Rose Croix and a founder of his school Lodge, Sebright Lodge 8007. Always a jolly and fun loving Freemason, David received his Certificate with great pride.



Long Service awards cont..

Congratulations to W. Bro. Gordon Thompson, pictured receiving his 50 Years Certificate on Wednesday 20th November at Staffordshire Knot No: 726



Phoenix Lodge No: 9319

Phoenix Lodge No: 9319 meet at the Masonic Centre, Wretham Rd, Handsworth and are a Summer Lodge meeting in May to September but unfortunately they are very few in number but quite a few brethren came together for their meeting on Tuesday 23rd July.

The W.M. W. Bro M. L. York was able to initiate his son, the first initiate since 2007 and the forty brethren including the Provincial Senior Grand Warden W. Bro Jeremy Roberts and the delegation of Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge were treated to an excellent ceremony. It was a very special night for the candidate and his father and the brethren who were lucky enough to be there.



Brethren from across the Province Remember



The Provincial Grand Master R. W. Bro John Lockley together with a number of brethren and their families attended a short service of Remembrance at the Masonic Gardens at the National Memorial Arboretum on Sunday 10th November.

Golf

The prestigious PGM's Trophy was this year won by Richard Thompson of Gordon Lodge No. 2149, with 35 Stableford points, receiving the Trophy from Prov.SGW Jeremy Roberts, ahead of Mark Ashton with 34 pts and Steve Mountford 33pts. The annual whisky draw took place on the same day and the winners' prizes are being circulated around the Province – keep an eye out for one arriving at your Lodge!

What was supposed to be our last game of the year – with the Provinces of Cheshire, North Wales and Shropshire, originally postponed from the very wet week in June, was again a victim of the heavy rains in late September. It'll be played for as part of our programme in 2020.

At our AGM in October Malcolm Phillips was thanked for his term as Chairman of the Provincial Golf Society, a role he was pleased to hand on to Dr Mike Rawle.

The highlight of our summer's golf in 2020 will be us hosting the annual 'Six Counties' event with the Provinces of Derbyshire, Leicestershire & Rutland, Nottinghamshire, Warwickshire & Yorkshire-West Riding on Thursday 23rd July at Aston Wood GC. Our full programme for 2020 will be published in the Spring edition of 'Within Your Province'.

We are always keen for golfers of all abilities to join our friendly society in the usual mix of events, both within Staffordshire and representing it in games with other Provinces. If you play golf and are interested to know more our Secretary looks forward to hearing from you via email msg.ashton@gmail.com.



Concordia Lodge No: 5131

Double initiation and a banner dedication



On Saturday 26th October Concordia Lodge No: 5131 had a double initiation and a banner dedication by the Assistant Grand Master RW Sir David Hugh Wooton.



Barr Beacon visit Shield & Defender Lodge

On Wednesday 27th November seven brethren from Barr Beacon Lodge No: 6109 attended Shield & Defender Lodge No: 9532 who meet at Wrotham in the Province of West Kent.

This was a special meeting for W. Bro Chris Hill who assisted in the ceremony of Raising his son Daniel, who had moved to the area from Pelsall.



Widows Sons at the Ride to the Wall

Members of various UK Chapters of the Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association gathered at Tamworth Masonic Hall in October to pay their respects to our serving and fallen service men and women and in doing so, raise funds for the purpose of perpetuating their memory and recognising the sacrifice made.

The West Midlands Chapter hosted the Widows Sons gathering with Tea, Coffee and biscuits, before riding in to the NMA and a second gathering at the Masonic Garden where a small moment of remembrance was observed.

The Ride to the Wall is just one of the events supported by the Widows Sons, who have also been present at "Bike for Life" in aid of the Air Ambulance, the "Jumbo Run" giving motorcycle rides for disabled Children and many other Local and Nationwide Charities. Clive Andrews-Lewis, President of the West Midlands Chapter urges anyone who has an event to support, or any need of Charitable Assistance to contact them "We will be at Coombe Abba festival in June next year, and are only a phone call away to support at your events - we are a fun loving association, founded on the principles of Masonry and would be delighted to help wherever we can"

The West Midlands Chapter covers Staffordshire, Shropshire, Worcestershire, Warwickshire and even down to Herefordshire. They meet at least monthly even throughout the Winter - and also regularly with the recently rescued Legge Lodge 2784, the Staffordshire Bikers Lodge.

<http://www.widowssons-wmids.co.uk/>



Staffordshire Provincial Grand Stewards

Lodge No. 9567

Saturday 30th November 2019

Saturday 30th November 2019 was the date for celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Staffordshire Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge at 211 Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton, the same Lodge Room where the Lodge was consecrated 25 years earlier.

In 1994 there were 104 in attendance according to the Minutes of the Consecration and at the opening of the Lodge under the dispensation, the Lodge Secretary, W. Bro Matt Gibbons ProvGSec, was delighted to announce there were a similar number in attendance on this evening when he had read an extract of those Minutes. The Master was pleased to have those extracted Minutes signed by 11 of the Founders present for these celebrations as a true and correct record of what there and then took place.

The Lodge was opened in all three degrees by the Worshipful Master, W. Bro Stephen Thompson

PPrGSwdB, and during each Degree a brief report was presented on the Founders of the Lodge who have been admitted to the Grand Lodge above; the Aims and Objectives of our Lodge; a report on how the Lodge assists throughout the Province; how the Lodge has contributed to many different charities as well as the Provincial



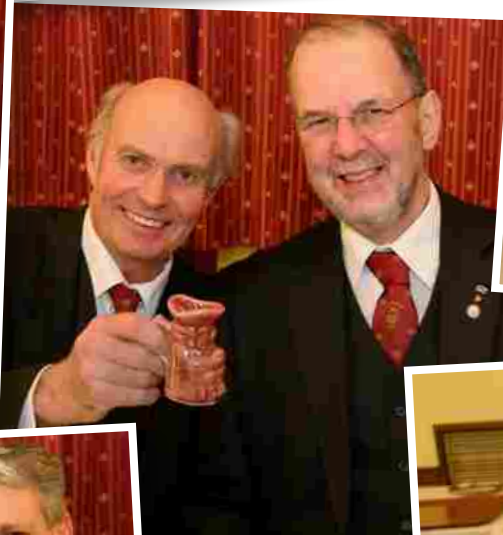
Festivals over the years; how the Lodge conducts its usual business with numerous Masonic and non-Masonic speakers and presentations for the interest of the Brethren and visitors alike; a brief insight into how Bro Andrew Dineley felt when the Lodge conducted his Ceremony of Passing, a unique occasion for the Lodge who do not ordinarily conduct Ceremonies; and, finally, a presentation to the Lodge by the Provincial Grand Master, R. W. Bro John Lockley, the Lodge Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies, extolling the virtues of the Lodge, its establishment in the Province and culminating in conferring an in-field promotion on R. W. Bro Stephen Varley, Provincial Grand Master of Derbyshire, to Past Provincial Senior Grand Warden.

The Lodge was closed and a short interlude in proceedings took place whilst the Lodge Room was set up for Lodge Glittering Star No 322 (Irish Constitution) who had been invited to share the birthday celebrations and provide an exemplification of a First Degree Ceremony. Having all signed their Tyler's Book, the assembled Brethren were treated to a very special meeting of their Lodge.

At the end of the proceedings, the Festive Board was filled with laughter and good humour. The selected menu was taken from the original Consecration Menu with a gift of a firing Toby to all those who attended. The Alms collection was in excess of £400 and shared with Lodge Glittering Star and the raffle, which included silver plated cuff links supplied by Lodge Glittering Star, raised in excess of £350

A truly memorable evening shared with many from across the Province and wider fraternity of Freemasonry. We now all look forward to the next 25 years!

Worshipful Master: W Bro Stephen Thompson PPrGSwdB



would you be
interested in
being a member
of a

UNITED SERVICES LODGE

A Lodge specifically for
serving and ex members
of the Armed Forces

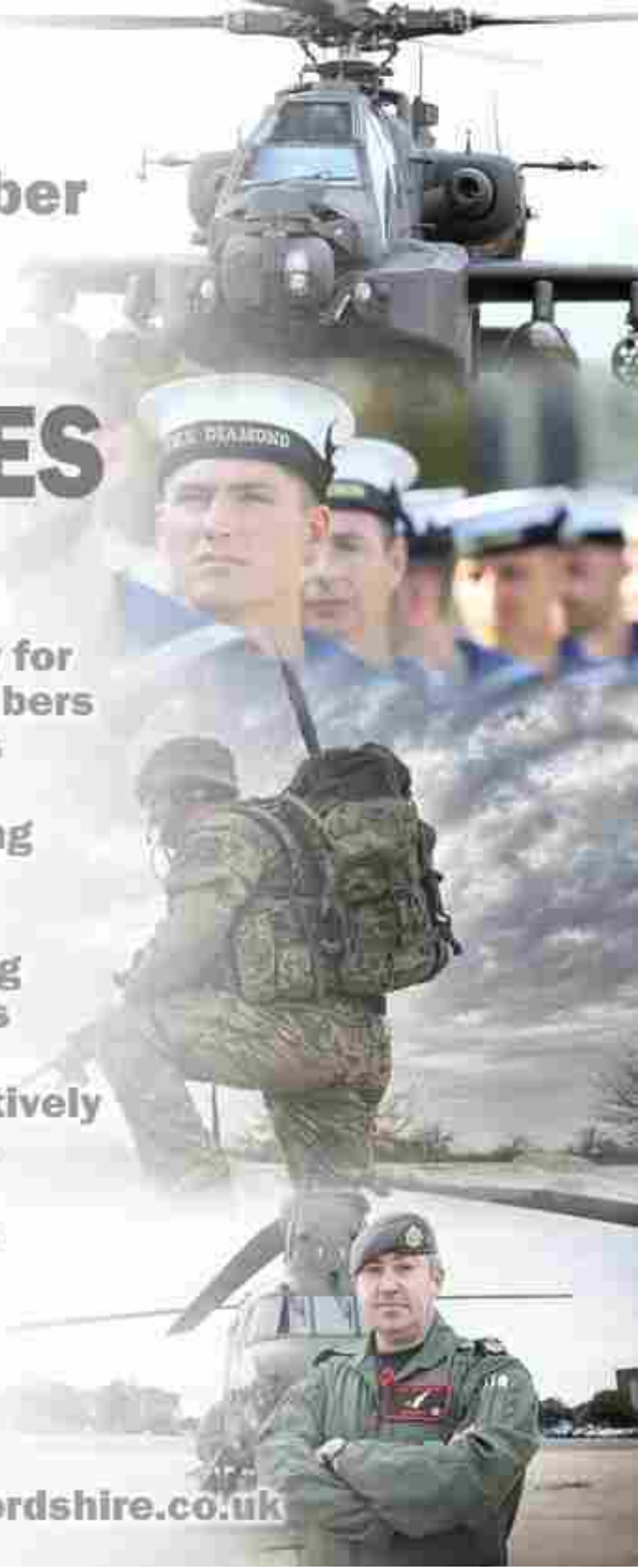
A Lodge with a strong
social aspect

A lodge with a strong
charitable emphasis

A working Lodge actively
seeking candidates

IF YOUR ANSWER IS
YES TO THE ABOVE
CONTACT THE
STAFFORDSHIRE
PROVINCIAL
SECRETARY

secretary@pglstaffordshire.co.uk



PTSD Progress through Diving

A few months ago I noticed an advert on Facebook regarding a charity namely 'PTSD Progress through Diving' by W. Bro Kevin James of Yuma Lodge within the District Grand Lodge of The Bahamas and Turks.

I was initially trying to find a suitable brother to benefit from his help but after speaking to him over a number of months Kevin picked up on my own struggles with PTSD and he offered to research and source flights and invited me to Long Island, The Bahamas.

I must admit I was sceptical at first but a few months later Kevin was back in touch and true to his word, he had arranged a very kind gift of economy flights out and first class back. All I had to do was pick the dates ! Well, September came around and I was off, I was feeling a little anxious about the long flight, going to a new country and meeting new people, but I needn't have worried. From the moment I arrived I was able to feel that strong Masonic connection that seems to bring the District of The Bahamas and Turks closer. I was taken by a Brother on a short tour of Nassau before then taking the short flight to Long Island where the strong Masonic support continued and I was met by Kevin at the airport. I was most warmly welcomed and we went on to visit the newly consecrated Long Island lodge building.

I later joined in the rehearsal for a forthcoming initiation, assisting in various offices as well as performing the Working Tools and I was then most honoured to be involved in the ceremony of Initiation of Bro Macgyver Coakley-Wells. During the evening I sat with and spoke to Kevin, also the District Grand Master R.W. Bro Robert Deal Jr and other Brethren, listening to how the recent hurricane, Dorian had seriously affected the Island. I was so proud to be a Freemason and hear how Freemasonry had helped.

I was so impressed at the excitement and pride that Macgyver had showed in becoming a Freemason both on the evening and during my stay that I was able to foster a strong friendship with him and I will be following his progress with keen interest. I, like many other veterans miss the banter and comradeship during my military service, so having this common ground with Kevin was a real benefit. Diving has had such a positive effect on my PTSD symptoms as you need to place your trust in your buddy and this was made so very easy with Kevin. The 14 dives we had together were remarkable; each one was exhilarating and helped reduce my symptoms.

I would also like to mention the amazing Masonic experience The Bahamas has offered me. It would be easy to say that the diving was the main factor in making me feel this way, but that would sell short how amazing both Kevin and his partner Audrey have been in supporting me together with every single one of the Brethren.

When I was due to return to the UK Kevin kindly accompanied me back to Nassau where yet again we were met at the airport by another Brother who collected us and took us to his home where we were kindly accommodated for the night and enjoyed his company over pizzas and a cool beer.

The District of the Bahamas and Turks will have a lasting place in my heart and see my visit as a life changing experience both from a Masonic point of view and with the Diving which will remain a positive milestone in my life and my mental health. Remember, "There are no strangers in Freemasonry, only friends you've yet to meet". I remain truly humbled by the generosity and kindness given to me by all and I hope more Freemason's can benefit from W. Bro Kevin James's passion for helping those who are struggling with their mental health.

If any Brother needs to talk or I can help please contact me.

Bro Trevor Cowell

of The Chase Lodge No 6291.



The Norah Mitchell (Minerva Lodge No. 1942) Trust Fund

On Friday 8th November 2019 at the Masonic Hall, Shelton, Minerva Lodge held their annual Norah Mitchell Trust Fund charity grant event, this being the 20th Anniversary Year of the event where cheques are presented to local charities from money left to Minerva Lodge by the widow of a member.

The Provincial Grand Master R. W. Bro John Lockley was in attendance together with a number of Provincial Officer's and representatives of the Staffordshire Masonic Charitable Association. The host for the event was W. Bro Howard Alcock, the Lodge Charity Steward who introduced his fellow trustees, W. Bros Tony Berry and Bob Haysom and welcomed all the charity representatives to the event.

W. Bro Alcock explained the origins of the Trust Fund, how the charities are chosen and the responsibility for the distribution of the funds after the approval of the SMCA. He also talked about Masonic Charities and the work of 'Masons in the Community' to the representatives and invited guests.

W. Bro Barrie Rouse, Secretary of the SMCA was introduced and presented with a cheque towards the SMCA 'B' Fund, which he was delighted to respond to and explain the work of the SMCA. There then followed the presentation of the cheques of £500 to each of the representatives.



The charities to benefit at this event were: -

Animal Lifeline, Stoke on Trent who assist in the rescue and re-homing of dogs to suitable owners. (Presented by Tony Berry to Pat Lawton)



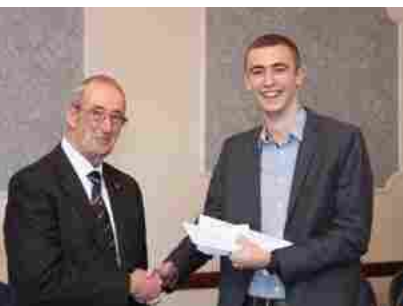
The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Committee Uttoxeter Area to assist in the purchasing of equipment. (Presented by Howard Alcock to Harry Alcock)



Caldon and Uttoxeter Canals Trust to assist in the maintenance and restoration and to establish a walking trail for the benefit of all. (Presented by Bob Haysom to Peter Mathews - Secretary)



Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening Programme, a charity within the University Hospitals of North Midlands and promotes the screening for this condition which has no symptoms and can prove fatal in the majority of cases. (Presented by Tony Berry to Karen Abbotts - Manager / Lead Nurse).



Disability Solutions West Midlands, which is based at the North Staffordshire Medical Institute and offers help and support to people with disabilities and long term health conditions to obtain essential services and benefits to which they are entitled. (Presented by Howard Alcock to Mandy Rollins CEO)



*The Provincial Grand Lodge
Of Staffordshire*



*Burns Night
Celebration*

County Show Ground Stafford
25th January 2020

For all booking information log on to: www.pglstaffsburns.co.uk

Follow or Like us on  Twitter: @pglburns  Facebook: @pglburns  Instagram: PGL Burns

SMCSA Christmas Shoot

**Come along to our Christmas Shoot at
Doveridge Clay Sports Club.**

50 clays / 5 trap competition.

£20 entry fee includes clays

Trophies for top 3 shooters

plus other great prizes

All profit to the MCF 2024 Festival

Experienced shooters only please

To register or more info Email treasurer@smcsa.org

Date: 27/12/19

Time: 09:30

**Staffordshire Masonic
Clay Shooting Association**

**Doveridge Clay Sport Club
Eaton Hall Farm
Upwoods Road, Doveridge
Ashbourne, Derbyshire
DE6 5LN, UK**



Marmion Lodge No: 1060

W. Bro David Philips PSGD PPr.APGM once again attained the Chair of this Lodge on Wednesday 9th October and the following month in November there was a very special and unique meeting.

The Mayor of Tamworth, Bro Richard Kingstone on joining St John's Lodge of Lichfield No: 1039 realised that several of his Mayoral predecessors had been Masters of Marmion Lodge. In Bro Richard's words, "It became a dream to join Marmion Lodge and as Mayor, to hold a meeting at the Town Hall".

Well the dream became a reality after a dispensation was obtained, some 40 members and guests from several Lodges

were present when the meeting in the Town was held and the WM, W. Bro David Philips welcomed Bro Richard to Marmion Lodge.

After the meeting there then followed a slide show presentation and explanation by W. Bro David linking the history of the previous Masters and Mayors with



Marmion Lodge, with several invited guests also invited to attend.

The evening was rounded off with a superb buffet, wine was served and many conversations had. All in all a very unique and splendid evening.



The New & Young Masons Clubs

The New & Young Masons Clubs Conference 2019 was this year hosted by Leicestershire & Rutland Light Blue Club on Saturday 28th September at Freemasons' Hall, London Rd, Leicester. The theme of the conference was # Building Bonds and there were over 100 attendees representing 31 NYMC clubs.

The event began with a warm welcome and introduction by Bro Bob Reay, Chairman of the Light Blue Club, followed by R.W. Bro David V. Hagger Provincial Grand Master and V.W. Bro Peter C. Kinder Deputy Provincial Grand Master and President of the Light Blue Club.

The morning continued with Freemasonry for Women with speakers from The Honourable Fraternity of Ancient Freemason (HFAF) Grand Master M.W. Bro Christine Chapman and The Order of Women Freemasons (OWF) Deputy Grand Secretary W. Bro Elaine Malone.

There then followed three Breakout Sessions regarding NYMC by esteemed brethren and an address about Solomon by R. W. Bro David Pratt Provincial Grand Master of Yorkshire West Riding. The Grand Secretary and CEO V.W. Bro Dr David Staples then addressed the conference before the event was finally closed by Bro Bob Reay and W. Bro Mitchell Merrick-Thirlway, NYMC administrator.

Following the conference the brethren were invited to a meeting of Wyggeston Lodge No. 3448 where a Raising ceremony was performed and there followed a very enjoyable festive board.



The Universities Scheme Conference

The Universities Scheme Bi-annual Conference 2019 was this year hosted by the Province of Cheshire and held on Saturday 16th November at Cheshire View, Christleton, Chester with over 180 delegates from as far as Cornwall and Durham.

Following registration and refreshments the event began with a warm welcome and introduction, present were R. W. Bro Sir David Hugh Wootton AGM and President, R. W. Bro Stephen Blank PGM Cheshire and W. Bro Julian Soper Chairman of the scheme. Also present was R. W. Bro David K. Williamson Past AGM and Past President together with a number of distinguished guests.



Sir David Wootton set out the aims of the day whilst the Chairman, Julian Soper set out the ambitions and thanked the Province of Cheshire for hosting the event. W. Bro. Craig Johnson from the UGLE Learning and Development team on behalf of R. W. Bro Stuart Hadler P. PGM Somerset who had been taken ill, gave a very interesting presentation about the educational platform 'Solomon' and its benefits.

There followed a number of 'workshops' on various topics including valuable input by Staffordshire brethren including V. W. Bro David Thomas DPGM, W. Bro's Andy Mapperson, Peter

Hughes, Nick Thomas, David Firth and Bro Mark Coates.

There were also interesting presentations on Freemasonry for Women, also on the work of N&YMC by Bro Jack Saunders and Michelle Worvell leading the Communications team from UGLE presented on use of social media

There was a lively Question and Answer session before the afternoon finally closed with a few comments by the President Sir David and the Chairman.



Provincial Away Day

The first Provincial Away Day was held at Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton on Saturday 28th September 2019. The topics covered were numerous but linked by the common factor of Membership of this Province. The aim of the day was to draw in all the recent updates for initiatives stemming from United Grand Lodge and to provide those who attended with a precis of those initiatives. If you were unable to attend, this synopsis should assist in bringing you up to speed. There will be other similar days organised in the future and all members of the Province are encouraged to attend or at least send one representative from your Lodge / Chapter. A PDF copy of the complete PowerPoint presentation is available from the Provincial Membership Officer, W. Bro Ralph Ritchey, PPrJGW.

Proceedings were opened by the Provincial Grand Master, R. W. Bro John Lockley who thanked all the Brethren for attending and the presenters for their input to bring the Province up to date with the various initiatives cascading from UGLE.

W. Bro Ritchey gave a presentation on the new Vault website where members can find, in one location, all of the initiatives from UGLE and how these have been, where appropriate, adapted for the Province. The site mirrors the b.UGLE website and enables users to logon to identify and use the initiatives along with several useful links to supporting documents and websites. The content is not designed to be downloaded and filed but should be accessed and extracts used for the purposes required. On the homepage there is also a link to the Provincial Office administration website accessed by Lodge Secretaries and Chapter Scribe E's containing a further wealth of useful documents to ensure your Lodge / Chapter are kept up to date. Details of the Vault can be obtained through your lodge secretary.

W. Bro Paul Molley, ProvGSuptWrks gave a presentation on how part of the armoury to be used by Lodges / Chapters to attract new members, can be a website. This presentation was a hop skip and a jump across various facets of creating, hosting, and maintaining a web presence to attract



potential new members. All the details from the Provincial Communications Team is contained in the Provincial Vault and those who are considering the creation of a website are strongly advised to read all the information prior to and during the construction of that website. The same applies to Facebook and Twitter – and again there are set protocols from the Province to follow. UGLE also encourage you to adopt their protocols.

Bro Darren Walker followed and gave a presentation and discussion regarding creating a lodge profile for a website and how that could attract membership and will ensure a consistent message is created and can easily be referred to during the process of interviewing a potential Candidate. Examples of a Lodge Profile will be uploaded to the Provincial Vault shortly.

W. Bro Ritchey then took the Brethren on a journey through the various stages of the recently updated Membership Pathway, which is located in the Provincial Vault. The Brethren were given a clear demonstration of the process a potential member can expect. This would be primarily for someone not introduced to the Lodge directly by an existing member, but someone who has made enquiries via the UGLE website or elsewhere.

The presentation by W. Bro Matt Gibbons ProvGSec centred on new initiatives to be launched very soon by UGLE in the form of “Project Hermes”. Membership data is currently being controlled under the Adelphi 2 system with limited access to the information contained in that database and regulated by a few in the Province. This information will be migrated to “Project Hermes” and allow a Lodge Secretary / Chapter Scribe E to have access to the information currently required for various forms and allow them to be completed directly online with both the Provincial Office and UGLE. This will involve amendments to the Book of Constitutions but is designed to save time and cost. A select number of Provinces have been given access to “Hermes” on a trial basis and a full roll-out of this is anticipated within 18 months. See the recent Grand Lodge Quarterly Communications for September 2019 for additional details.

W. Bro David Watt, PAGDC, ProvGMentor highlighted the important work of being a Lodge Mentor and the retention of members whilst W. Bro John Brackpool, PAGDC, ProvGDC offered advice and assistance from his team on “Protocol & Best Practice” and “traditions” within Lodges. There then followed a presentation by W. Bro John Skellern, ProvGChStwd who spoke about Masonic Charities and how collections are used by the Masonic Charitable Foundation on our behalf across the UK and within Staffordshire. He advised that not more than 18p in every £ donated is used for administration within the MCF, meaning more of your money is directed to the charitable causes. In 2018 that amounted to in excess of £48.1m! A new initiative focus for the MCF is on loneliness and more details on this initiative will be released by Freemasonry Today Magazine and the MCF website – links to which have also been created via the new Provincial Vault website.

A most enjoyable and interactive presentation by the Royal Arch Talking Heads team followed in a similar style to how this is provided within a Lodge Meeting. This lasts no more than 15 minutes and the presentation asks all the burning principal questions of a prospective candidate into the Royal Arch and explains them in a concise and interesting format that is both humorous as well as engaging.

W. Bro Molley returned to the floor and explained how like the other initiatives cascading from UGLE, Solomon is not a static resource designed to be downloaded to your laptop, tablet or phone. However, it is designed to be used on these platforms for individual structured learning; group discussions and use in the Lodge / Chapter either from the shorter nuggets of information or the slightly longer papers that can be further enhanced and made more interesting with the introduction of a PowerPoint slide show to supplement the words.

Ideas for the use of Solomon include during a Lodge / Chapter of Instruction or utilising an illustrated paper in a catechetical form to encourage more members to join in the delivery. New resources within Solomon include a further 100 articles recently added; the use of professional recordings for various nuggets and papers; and, in the future, video demonstrations of elements of the Ritual.

Access details are on the new Provincial business cards and are currently being promoted via Provincial Officer's email addresses. Secretaries and Scribe E's are encouraged to add the site details to their Summons including the QR code. Members create their own login/password details for access to Solomon. Mentors should try and encourage structured reading with newer members of the Lodge / Chapter, links to Solomon can also be found in the new Provincial Vault.

W. Bro Molley also explained that part of the ongoing Property Initiative, a new Province-wide Wi-Fi is being investigated to enable the majority of the Masonic Centres across the Province to have super-fast broadband to enable easier use of these various web-based initiatives from tablets, smart phones and laptops at the Masonic Centres. There will be one log-in that will provide Wi-Fi across the Province.

The presentation by W. Bro Ralph Howarth, ProvGAlm illustrated the extent of the work being undertaken by the Provincial Almoner's team of volunteers. In 2018/19 the MCF were able to direct more than £170,000 into the Province for use by Brethren / Companions and their families who were suffering some level of financial distress. The team of volunteers operate directly with the Lodge / Chapter Almoner to relieve him from the administration once a need is identified within the Province. There is then continuous liaison with that Almoner and the direct dependents of the member in distress or the member himself if it is one of his dependents requiring that need. Information on this is also available via the new Provincial Vault website.

R. W. Bro John Lockley brought the afternoon to a close by thanking the Presentation team and the Brethren/Companions who had attended and clearly taken notice of a great deal of the content based on the interesting questions that had arisen at the end of the day. Also highlighting how the new Provincial Vault will be the way forward for the Province and encouraging members across the Province to engage with it and offer constructive feedback via the site if there are elements not yet covered.



Knights Templar

The Provincial Priory of Staffordshire and Shropshire

Crusade to the Holy Land 2019

At the request of our late Provincial Prior the Right Eminent Knight D. Gary Read K.C.T. a contingent of Knights Templar accompanied by their partners travelled to Israel. We intended to visit the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital and the "Tree of Hope" in Muristan, where we would see the two swifts placed on the tree in recognition of the support given to the hospital by the knights of Staffordshire & Shropshire. Gary was represented by his daughter Stephanie and her husband David



The Prov Sub Prior Presents the cheque for £3000.00 to the CEO

The planning for the trip started some 14 months ago and the main focus for the Crusade was to visit the eye hospital where we were greeted by the CEO Dr Ahmad Ma'ali who delivered an excellent presentation about the work of the Hospital and its outlying centres. After this our Prov Sub Prior the Very Eminent Knight Alan Howls P.Gt.Reg. presented a further £3000.00 raised within the Province in support of the hospital. We were then taken on a tour of the hospital and saw first-hand examples of the work that the hospital does and how this benefits the individuals

who live and work in the area. Patients come from a variety of socio-economic backgrounds and religious groups and treatment is provided at modest or if necessary no cost to the individual. It was interesting to note whilst reading the notice board information what we would have to do in the event of a "rocket" attack, hopefully this is something that won't be required in UK hospitals! All of the staff were extremely professional and polite and took great pride in promoting the work of the hospital, which was followed by a lovely lunch in the peaceful and tranquil gardens.



The "Crusaders" in front of the "Tree of Hope" in Muristan.



King Solomon's Mines

at every location that we visited and our guide Gadi was a mine of information whilst our driver Moses managed to get a coach where some of us would struggle to park a push bike and they were both congratulated on a "job well done" during our last night celebrations.

Throughout the trip the group also enjoyed various ethnic cultures and were amazed at the scenery, religious heritage, culture, historical sites and cuisine throughout this amazing country. Our itinerary was packed with visits to the many sights of Jerusalem, the Dead Sea, The Hill Top Fort at Masada, The Sea of Galilee and beyond. The whole group really enjoyed each other's company. The noise of excited conversation was obvious

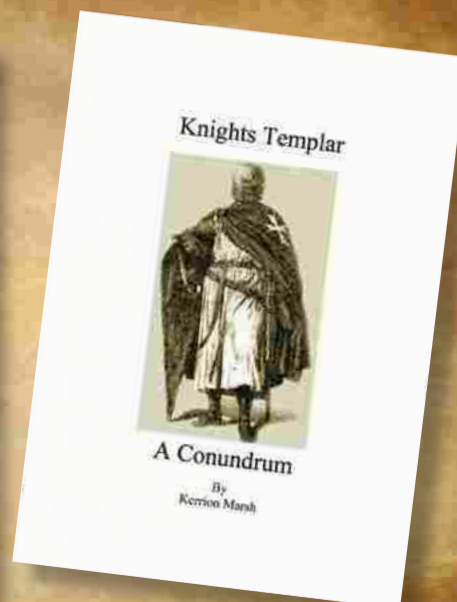
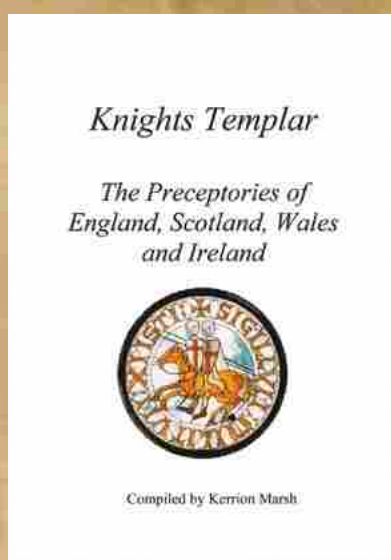


The Holy Sepulchre



Highlights of our Crusade were personal to each and every one of us, some focused-on floating in the Dead Sea, others at being Baptised in the River Jordan and the more boisterous of us, dancing during our boat trip on the Sea of Galilee. We thoroughly enjoyed our Crusade to the Holy Land and would recommend a visit to anyone who has the opportunity.

The Dome of the Rock





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Overview of our work in 2018/19

STAFFORDSHIRE

WE HELPED



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MEMBERS WITH GRANTS TOTTALLING
£192,984

£116,003

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TO GIVE ACCESS TO LIFE-
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CARE AND EDUCATION COSTS



OUR ADVICE & SUPPORT TEAM CARRIED
OUT VISITS,
58 CALLS & EMAILS

10

PEOPLE ACCESSED OUR
COUNSELLING SERVICE

WE AWARDED

13

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LOCAL CHARITIES
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